

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

### Abstract

The active part which is provided for use in a surge arrester includes two connecting fittings ~~(10, 20)~~, which are arranged along an axis ~~(7)~~ at a distance from one another, at least one cylindrical varistor column ~~(30)~~, which is provided between the two connecting fittings ~~(10, 20)~~, and at least one dielectric loop ~~(41, 42)~~. This loop ~~(41, 42)~~ is supported on the two connecting fittings ~~(10, 20)~~ and thus holds the active part together, thus forming a contact force. The active part is distinguished by a small physical height and little use of materials. This is achieved in that at least one of the two connecting fittings ~~(10, 20)~~ has an electrode, which is arranged at right angles to the axis ~~(z)~~ and is in the form of a plate ~~(11, 12)~~, as well as an electrical connection ~~(12, 22)~~, which is integrally formed on the plate ~~(11, 12)~~. Furthermore, supporting means which are in the form of shoulders ~~(13, 14, 23, 24)~~ are provided for the dielectric loop ~~(41, 42)~~, and are formed in the plate ~~(11, 21)~~ and/or are integrally formed at the edge of the plate ~~(11, 21)~~.

~~(Figure 1)~~